

Proposed Amendment of Claim 1:

1. A symmetrical, miniature, hand-held trackball pointing device for interchangeable use in either a right hand or left hand of a user, comprising:

a) a symmetrical housing adapted and configured to fit interchangeably into a user's right or left hand ~~proximate the metacarpal (i.e., first phalangeal) region of the fingers thereof,~~ a front portion of said housing comprising at least three curved surfaces adapted to snugly fit into the first phalangeal of the metacarpal portion of a index, a middle, and a ring finger, respectively, of said user's right or left hand, said housing further comprising a rear curved surface adapted to snugly rest in a palm portion of said user's right or left hand, said housing being adapted for retention in said user's hand between said metacarpal regions of said index, middle, and ring fingers of said user's hand and a palm thereof ~~by no more than a thumb thereof~~, thereby freeing ~~portions of said fingers beyond said post-~~ metacarpal regions of said index, middle, and ring fingers for tasks unrelated to said pointing device; including typing

b) ...

Spec. - <sup>m</sup> optimal Sands